

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

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Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

DEMOCRACY

A MATTER OF TRUST: AMERICANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT 1958 – 2004

Council for Excellence in Government. September 2004

<http://www.excelgov.org/usermedia/images/uploads/PDFs/AMOT.pdf>

Although there is very little reliable data about U.S. attitudes toward government in the years before 1958, the general assumption seems to be that public trust and confidence in government was consistently high from the end of World War II until the early 1960s. A review of the data on trust in government from 1958 through the present reveals a long and sustained trend toward mistrust. However, within this downward trend there have been important fluctuations - often precipitated by specific events and conditions, both in the United States and around the world.

BUILDING A NEW IRAQ: WOMEN'S ROLE IN RECONSTRUCTION

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Women Waging Peace. October 20, 2004

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/womeniraq_3rd.pdf

Supporting stability, reconstruction, and a peaceful political transition in Iraq will only be accomplished if the rights of more than 55 percent of Iraq's population are guaranteed. As particularly effective organizers and advocates, Iraqi women have generated short-term results and facilitated broader changes within the leadership structures of Iraq. They have successfully demonstrated that they can and should play a central role in Iraq's transition to democracy. Since April 2003, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the organization "Women Waging Peace" have worked with Iraqi women to promote their empowerment and inclusion in post-conflict planning and decision-making. Participants in the joint programs have represented diverse political, ethnic, and religious groups, including Iraqi expatriates from the United States, Europe, and the Middle East and women living throughout Iraq.

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REPORT FOR 2004

United States Department of State. September 15, 2004

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/index.htm>

This report, the sixth annual report on religious freedom in the world, is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Section 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998. The law provides that the Secretary of State, with the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, shall transmit to Congress "an Annual Report on International Religious Freedom supplementing the most recent Human Rights Reports by providing additional detailed information with respect to matters involving international religious freedom."

RESERVATIONS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN: WEAKENING THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION

Amnesty International (AI). November 3, 2004

[http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/IOR510092004ENGLISH/\\$File/IOR5100904.pdf](http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/IOR510092004ENGLISH/$File/IOR5100904.pdf)

This report from Amnesty International (AI) argues that many governments have not done enough to bring their domestic laws in line with international standards, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the main treaty devoted to the rights of women. The report argues that reservations expressed by most countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region that ratified CEDAW have rendered the convention almost meaningless and ineffective. The authors argue that, although international law permits reservations upon ratification, they should not be contrary to the object and purpose of the treaty. In reality, says AI, most of the reservations entered in the region are inconsistent with what is permissible.

WORLDWIDE INDEX OF PRESS FREEDOM

Reporters Without Borders/Reporters sans frontières (RSF). October 26, 2004

http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=11715

RSF's Index of press Freedom seeks to measure degrees of freedom that journalists and news organizations enjoy in each of the countries evaluated, and the efforts made by the governments in those countries to respect and ensure respect for journalistic freedom. Reporters Without Borders compiled the index by asking its partner organizations (14 freedom of expression organizations in five continents), its 130 correspondents around the world, as well as journalists, researchers, jurists and human rights activists, to answer 52 questions to indicate the state of press freedom in 167 countries (others were not included for lack of information). Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia and Switzerland share top honors as the highest-ranked countries for press freedom. At the bottom of RSF's index are: North Korea (at the bottom of the entire list at 167th place), followed Cuba (166th), Burma (165th), Turkmenistan (164th), Eritrea (163rd), China (162nd) and Vietnam (161st).

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

DIASPORAS IN CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT. RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE AND THE WORLD BANK

Michelle Lapointe

Inter-American Dialogue and World Bank. August 2004

http://www.iadialog.org/publications/country_studies/caribbean/diasporas.pdf

This paper focuses on the range of economic and social interactions that thrive between Caribbean immigrants and their home countries. It is the summary report from an April 2004 workshop "The Caribbean Diaspora as a Development Agent". Governments have begun to focus considerable attention on remittance flows and their policy implications, but policy makers have so far largely ignored other immigrant connections with their home countries. The scope of the diaspora's economic and social contributions to countries of origin is significant and extends well beyond unilateral transfer of remittances. In light of the growing importance of "transnational" communities—those that bridge home and host countries—the purpose of the workshop was to determine how the World Bank can support diaspora involvement in home country development.

DOLLAR ADJUSTMENT: HOW FAR? AGAINST WHAT?

C. Fred Bergsten and John Williamson, editors

Institute for International Economics (IIE). November 2004; Web-posted October 2004

<http://www.iie.com/publications/papers/dollar-chapter.pdf>

[Note: This paper is a conference summary; other papers from the conference will be added as subsequent chapters and be issued in their entirety in one volume in November 2004.]

The Institute for International Economics (IIE) held a conference in late May 2004 to assess the progress that has been made in correcting the sizable misalignments of key national currencies that had developed in the late 1990s and early 2000s. This conference was a sequel to an earlier conference held at the Institute on September 24, 2002, which tried to estimate the magnitude and explore the implications of the dollar overvaluation that had developed in the preceding years.

FINANCIAL ACCESS FOR IMMIGRANTS [Brookings Conference Report No. 19]

Audrey Singer and Anna Paulson

Brookings Institution. October 2004

<http://www.brookings.edu/dybdocroot/comm/conferencereport/cr19.pdf>

In April 2004 the Brookings Institution and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Chicago Fed) co-sponsored a conference on "Financial Access for Immigrants" to better understand how immigrants use financial services when they come to the U.S. and to endeavor to find ways to accommodate immigrants' needs for specific types of banking and other financial services. The conference included presentations from scholars and practitioners who discussed recent research on the financial practices of immigrants as well as the practical experiences of for-profit and nonprofit institutions working to provide financial services to immigrant communities. Census Bureau data show that immigrants are less likely than native-born Americans to have bank accounts, stock, or to own homes. Lower participation in financial markets may be due to lower household incomes, language and cultural differences, and inexperience with domestic financial institutions, or a combination of these and other factors. Several of the conferees address the issue of remittances, arguing that banks might have a larger role to play in guaranteeing secure remittances, especially for customers without regular savings or checking accounts.

FINANCIAL MARKET PREPAREDNESS: IMPROVEMENTS MADE, BUT MORE ACTION NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR WIDE-SCALE DISASTERS [GAO-04-984]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). September 27, 2004; Web-posted October 27, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04984.pdf>

To determine progress made since its February 2003 report on financial market security, GAO assessed (1) actions that critical securities market organizations took to improve their ability to prevent and recover from disruptions, (2) actions that financial market and telecommunications industry participants took to improve telecommunications resiliency, (3) financial regulators' efforts to ensure the resiliency of the financial markets; and (4) the Security and Exchange Commission's (SEC's) efforts to improve its program for overseeing operations risks at certain market participants. GAO found that the critical securities market organizations and market participants reviewed had taken actions, since GAO's previous reports, to further reduce the risk that their operations would be disrupted by terrorist attacks or other disasters.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE: CURRENT GOVERNMENT DATA PROVIDE LIMITED INSIGHT INTO OFFSHORING OF SERVICES [GAO-04-932]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). September 22, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04932.pdf>

Much attention has focused on the topic of "offshoring" of information technology (IT) and other services to lower-wage locations abroad. "Offshoring" of services generally refers to an organization's purchase from other countries of services that it previously produced or purchased domestically, such as software programming or telephone call centers. GAO was asked to (1) describe the nature of offshoring activities and the factors that encourage offshoring, (2) discuss what U.S. government data show about the extent of this practice by the private sector and federal and state governments, and (3) discuss available data on the potential effects of services offshoring on the U.S. economy. After researching all of the relevant data, GAO concludes that U.S. Government data provide limited information about the effects of services offshoring on U.S. employment levels and the U.S. economy.

GENERAL

2004 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION. TRANSCRIPTS OF SPEECHES

Republican National Convention Committee. Updated September 2, 2004

<http://www.gopconvention.com/news/speeches.shtml>

[Note: The Democratic Party's National Convention was held in July in Boston. The link to speeches from that convention was posted as ADSURLS Item 04AD828:

<http://www.dems2004.org/site/apps/nl/newsletter3.asp?c=luI2LaPYG&b=131063>]

[Note: The transcripts of the speeches included in this site are transcripts of the speeches as "prepared for delivery"; when an individual speaker changed the contents of the remarks during the delivery of his/her speech, those changes are not reflected in the transcripts on this website]

There are approximately 55 links to transcripts; some audio files are linked from the main convention page: <http://www.gopconvention.com>. Among the most widely covered and analyzed speeches in the U.S. media are those of: President George W. Bush; Vice President Dick Cheney; Michael Steele; Arnold Schwarzenegger; Zell Miller; and Rudy Giuliani.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/>

While the programs at various community colleges vary in character from those designed to prepare x-ray technicians to those designed to inculcate a love of the Great Books, one thing is for certain: They are a valuable, yet at times under-appreciated, part of the vast lattice of higher education across the United States. Interestingly enough, the first public two-year college in the United States was Joliet Junior College, which opened its doors in 1901. Currently, community colleges enroll more than half the nation's undergraduates, and the American Association of Community Colleges is the primary advocacy organization for the approximately 1,100 associate degree-granting institutions and their students. The website contains important information about the organization's ongoing activities, its relationship with government (and lobbying activities), and some basic statistics about the landscape of community colleges.

CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES [2003]

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). September 22, 2004

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf>

A total of 5,559 fatal work injuries were recorded in the U.S. in 2003, a small increase from the revised total of 5,534 fatal work injuries reported for 2002, according to this most recent edition of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Despite the increase, fatal work injuries for both 2003 and 2002 were the lowest ever recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted each year since 1992. The rate at which fatal work injuries occurred in 2003 was 4.0 fatalities per 100,000 workers, unchanged from the rate reported for 2002.

MEASURING UP 2004: THE NATIONAL REPORT CARD ON HIGHER EDUCATION

National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. September 15, 2004

http://measuringup.highereducation.org/docs/nationalreport_2004.pdf

Measuring Up 2004, consists of the national report card for higher education and fifty state report cards. Its purpose is to provide the public and policymakers with information to assess and improve postsecondary education in each state. Measuring Up 2004 is the third in a series of biennial report cards. This series of Measuring Up report cards does not assess the quality or prestige of particular colleges or universities. Rather, it gauges the educational health of the population of each state in terms of five categories of college opportunity and achievement. The report itself is linked to a more complete site [<http://measuringup.highereducation.org>] that provides state leaders, policy makers, researchers and others with access to the national report card as well as access to all fifty state report cards. In addition, users can compare any state with the best-performing states in each performance category, compare indicator scores and state grades for any performance category, obtain source and technical information for indicators and weights, and download the reports. Further, the Measuring Up web site has the capacity to view previous report cards from 2000 and 2002.

READING AT RISK: A SURVEY OF LITERARY READING IN AMERICA

<http://www.arts.gov/pub/ReadingAtRisk.pdf>

While most people may think of the National Endowment for the Arts as an organization that sponsors various cultural and artistic endeavors across the United States, the organization also prepares research reports on various topics, such as reports on the state of folk and traditional arts in the country. Its latest report, which surveys the state of literary reading in America, offers a rather sobering assessment of how much (or how little) the average American does on a regular or occasional basis. Released in June 2004, this 60-page report draws on previous survey work to highlight some of the trends in this area, including the finding that the percentage of adult Americans reading literature has dropped dramatically during the past 20 years. The report reveals several other findings, including the fact that literary reading continues to decline among all education levels and all age groups. The report includes a number of useful tables, an executive summary, and information about the study's methodology.

REPORT TO CONGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 1001 OF THE USA PATRIOT ACT

United States Department of Justice (DOJ). Office of the Inspector General (OIG). September 13, 2004

<http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/special/0409/index.htm>

Section 1001 of the USA PATRIOT Act (Patriot Act), Public Law 107-56, directs the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ or Department) to undertake a series of actions related to claims of civil rights or civil liberties violations allegedly committed by DOJ employees. It also requires the OIG to provide semi-annual reports to Congress on the implementation of the OIG's responsibilities under Section 1001. This report - the fifth since enactment of the legislation - summarizes the OIG's Section 1001-related activities from December 16, 2003, through June 21, 2004. During this reporting period, says this OIG report, none of the 208 complaints alleging misconduct by DOJ employees related to use of a provision in the Patriot Act, except for the Mayfield case.

RESULTS FROM THE 2003 NATIONAL SURVEY ON DRUG USE AND HEALTH: NATIONAL FINDINGS

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). September 9, 2004

<http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nhsda/2k3nsduh/2k3ResultsW.pdf>

This report presents the first information from the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). This survey, formerly called the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), is a project of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This survey was initiated in 1971 and is the primary source of information on the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco by the civilian, non-institutionalized population of the United States aged 12 years old or older. The survey interviews approximately 67,500 persons each year.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MANUAL 2004/2005

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Office of the Federal Register. Web-posted September 13, 2004

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/browse-gm-04.html>

As the official handbook of the Federal Government, the United States Government Manual provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. It also includes information on quasi-official agencies; international organizations, in which the United States participates; and boards, commissions, and committees. The Manual begins with reprints of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

GLOBAL ISSUES

ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF INTERVENTIONS

Sarah Bott, Mary Ellsberg and Andrew Morrison

World Bank. October 21, 2004

http://econ.worldbank.org/files/39678_wps3438.pdf

The authors present an overview of gender-based violence (GBV) in Latin America, with special emphasis on good practice interventions to prevent GBV or offer services to its survivors and its perpetrators. Intimate partner violence and sexual coercion are the most common forms of GBV, and these are the types of GBV that they analyze. GBV has serious consequences for women's health and wellbeing, ranging from fatal outcomes such as homicide, suicide, and AIDS-related deaths, to nonfatal outcomes such as physical injuries, chronic pain syndrome, gastrointestinal disorders, complications during pregnancy, miscarriage, and low birth-weight of children. GBV also poses significant costs for the economies of developing countries, including lower worker productivity and incomes, and lower rates of accumulation of human and social capital. The authors examine good practice approaches in justice, health and education, as well as multi-sectoral approaches. In each sector, they id!

AGROTERRORISM: THREATS AND PREPAREDNESS

Jim Monke

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. August 13, 2004

<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RL32521.pdf>

Agroterrorism is a subset of bioterrorism, and is defined as the deliberate introduction of an animal or plant disease with the goal of generating fear, causing economic losses, and/or undermining stability. Attacks against agriculture are not new, and have been conducted or considered by both nation-states and substate organizations throughout history. Agriculture and food production generally have received less attention in counter-terrorism and homeland security efforts. However, more recently, agriculture has attracted more attention in the expanding field of terrorism studies. Laboratory and response systems are being upgraded to address the reality of agroterrorism.

COLOMBIA. "SCARRED BODIES, HIDDEN CRIMES": SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE ARMED CONFLICT

Amnesty International (AI). October 13, 2004

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/print/ENGAMR230402004>

According to this AI report, Colombian security forces, army-backed paramilitaries and guerrilla groups have turned the bodies of thousands of women and girls into a battleground. Sexual violence against women, including rape, forms an integral part of Colombia's 40-year-old armed conflict and the evidence uncovered in the research for this report that it is widespread. Rape and other sexual crimes, such as genital mutilation, are frequently carried out by the security forces and the paramilitaries as part of their terror tactics against communities they accuse of collaborating with guerrilla groups, says Amnesty. Afro-descendent, indigenous and peasant women, shantytown dwellers, and the internally displaced are at particular risk. Women have been sexually abused after being kidnapped by guerrilla groups and paramilitaries or while being detained by the security forces. Guerrilla groups have also forced their female combatants to have abortions and use contraception.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND LEGAL ACTIONS RELATED TO DISCRIMINATION AND AFRO-DESCENDANT POPULATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA. [2004 RACE REPORT]

Inter-American Dialogue. August 2004

http://www.iadialog.org/publications/race/report_2004.pdf

This document summarizes legislation that affects African lineage in Latin America and the Caribbean, and reviews the international conventions and accords that governments have signed regarding racism, racial discrimination and social exclusion based on race. The constitutions of all countries in the region guarantee equality for their citizens and almost all of them are signatories to the UN's 1965 international Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). However, the authors of this report note that the constitutional provisions have been largely ineffective in addressing the problem of racial inequality and that the implementation of the CERD convention has been sporadic over the last 40 years and the, with various degrees of success. The report includes a chart outlining constitutional provisions and other legal actions regarding discrimination in each country. There is also a review of the ongoing discussions between Latin American legislators and counterparts in the U.S. Congress.

CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION, 2003

United States Department of Justice (DOJ). Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). September 12, 2004

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv03.pdf>

This annual report presents estimates of national levels and rates of personal and property victimization for the year 2003. Rates and levels are provided for personal and property victimization by victim characteristics, type of crime, victim-offender relationship, use of weapons, and reporting to police. A special section of this annual report is devoted to trends in victimization rates from 1993 to 2003. Estimates are from data collected using the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), an ongoing survey of households that interviews about 75,000 persons in 42,000 households twice annually. Violent crimes included in the report are rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault (from the NCVS), and homicide (from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports program). Property crimes examined are burglary, motor vehicle theft, and property theft.

CRUISE SHIP POLLUTION: BACKGROUND, LAWS AND REGULATIONS, AND CURRENT ISSUES

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. July 2, 2004

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/04Jul/RL32450.pdf>

Cruise ships carrying several thousand passengers and crew have been compared to "floating cities," and the volume of wastes that they produce is comparably large, consisting of sewage; wastewater from sinks, showers, and galleys (graywater); hazardous wastes; solid waste; oily bilge water; ballast water; and air pollution. The

waste streams generated by cruise ships are governed by a number of international protocols (especially MARPOL) and U.S. domestic laws (including the Clean Water Act and the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships), regulations, and standards, but there is no single overarching law or rule. Some cruise ship waste streams appear to be well regulated, such as solid wastes (garbage and plastics) and bilge water. But there is overlap of some areas of coverage and gaps in others.

DOCUTICKER

<http://www.docuticker.com/>

At the Scout Report, we try to bring some of the most compelling new scholarly reports to the attention of our readers, and we often run across other people doing equally informative work. One such group is the good people at ResourceShelf.com (who include such persons as Gary Price and Shirl Kennedy), which launched in June 2004. Essentially DocuTicker is a daily update of new reports and other research culled from various sources, including think tanks, research institutes, and government agencies. The site is set up as a weblog, and visitors can search the archives dating back to the creating of the site earlier this year, or just scroll through recent entries. Some of the more recent entries include a report on the use of antibiotics in animals and a report from the 2000 Census on black same-sex households in the United States.

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE: OECD INDICATORS - 2004 EDITION

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). September 14, 2004

http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,2340,en_2649_34515_33712135_1_1_1_1,00.html

According to this most recent OECD annual compendium of education statistics, more people around the world are completing university courses and other forms of tertiary education than ever before. However, progress has been uneven across countries and some have significantly fallen behind, potentially compromising their future ability to keep up with economic and social progress. This year, the report highlights factors affecting the future supply of qualified people and the relationship between educational attainment and employment and earnings.

EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES: REVIEW OF STATE AND FEDERAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS [GAO-04-877]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). September 30, 2004; Web-posted November 1, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04877.pdf>

The threat posed by infectious diseases has grown. New diseases, unknown in the United States just a decade ago, such as West Nile virus and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), have emerged. To detect cases of infectious diseases, especially before they develop into widespread outbreaks, local, state, and federal public health officials as well as international organizations conduct disease surveillance. Disease surveillance is the process of reporting, collecting, analyzing, and exchanging information related to cases of infectious diseases. In this report GAO examines disease surveillance efforts in the United States. Specifically, GAO describes (1) how state and federal public health officials conduct surveillance for infectious diseases and (2) initiatives intended to enhance disease surveillance.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THEFT, 2002

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). October 25, 2004

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipt02.pdf>

This report presents statistics on both criminal and civil enforcement of Federal intellectual property (IP) laws for 1994-2002. Criminal intellectual property theft offenses include copyright and trademark infringement and theft of trade secrets. Civil intellectual property suits include copyright, trademark, and patent infringement. The report summarizes intellectual property legislation and nine-year trends. The report presents intellectual property trends in the number of suspects (both individuals and organizations) referred to U.S. attorneys and defendants prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced. A numerical table sums up the types of sentences and penalties imposed across the period. The report also includes the number of civil intellectual property complaints filed and terminated, with information on plaintiff winners and monetary award amounts.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

<http://www.iste.org/>

Increased interest in the use of technology in education has developed extensively across the United States during the past few years, and a number of professional organizations have sprung up in order to provide resources to those policy-makers and educators interested in adapting and utilizing various technologies in their

classrooms. Visitors to the site will want to peruse the online educator resources, which include materials thematically organized into sections such as assessment, curriculum, policy, and professional development. A number of the organization's print publications are also available online, including its in-house magazine, "Learning & Leading with Technology". Visitors will also want to read about the Society's work on the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) Project, which is designed to help establish standards for the effective use of information technology in education.

SAFETY OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS: APPROACHES TO ASSESSING UNINTENDED HEALTH EFFECTS. REPORT BRIEF

National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Institute of Medicine (IOM) and National Research Council (NRC). July 28, 2004

http://www.nap.edu/html/ge_foods/ge-foods-reportbrief.pdf

[Note: The URL above is for the 4-page report brief only. The full report is available for purchase at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10977.html>. Alternatively, one can view and read or print one page at a time at: <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309092094/html/>]

The Institute of Medicine and National Research Council issued the full 256-page report in order to assist policymakers in evaluating the appropriate scientific methods for detecting unintended changes in food and assessing the potential for adverse health effects from genetically modified products. In the report, the IOM and NRC recommend that greater scrutiny should be given to foods containing new compounds or unusual amounts of naturally occurring substances, regardless of the method used to create them. The report offers a framework to guide federal agencies in selecting the route of safety assessment. The authors identify and recommend several pre- and post-market approaches to guide the assessment of unintended compositional changes that could result from genetically modified foods and research avenues to fill the knowledge gaps.

THE FUTURE OF WORK AND QUALITY IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY: THE MEDIA, CULTURE, GRAPHICAL SECTOR

International Labor Organization (ILO). October 15, 2004

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/techmeet/tmmcgs04/tmmcgs-r.pdf>

The title of this report is a bit confusing, but the basic theme of the report is the following: advances in new media, multimedia and information and communication technologies (ICT) may increase the demand for journalists, editors, artists and related professions, but may simultaneously compromise the quality of their work and of their working conditions. The report notes that computerization is tending to create jobs in the sector rather than eliminating them, although some segments are experiencing serious declines in employment. Conversely, the report also observes that the growth of new media is prompting growing concerns over the level of quality of working conditions and of output in the media, cultural and graphical sectors, and presents new challenges in terms of training for jobs in the media and entertainment industry. The report provides overviews and analysis for broadcasting, the film industry, live performance, performers in multimedia and other new media work, media journalism, and publishing and graphical industries.

THE INTERNET AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN RULEMAKING

Cary Coglianese

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government. November 1, 2004

[http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP04-044/\\$File/rwp_04_044_Coglianese.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP04-044/$File/rwp_04_044_Coglianese.pdf)

While the legislative branch of the U.S. government enacts laws, it is the role of the executive branch agencies to develop regulations and rules to enable and enforce those laws. The public has the right to comment on proposed new rules, but the author notes that "the agency rulemaking process remains remarkably hidden from the view of the general public. Since the insularity of the agency rulemaking process stands at odds with ordinary notions of democratic policymaking, many lawyers and policymakers look with hope to new digital technologies as a way of overcoming rulemaking's democratic deficit." Many legislators and other concerned groups see increased electronic government via technology as a way to increase citizen participation in rulemaking and the regulatory process.

THE U.N. LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION AND THE UNITED STATES: DEVELOPMENTS SINCE OCTOBER 2003 [RS21890]

Marjorie Ann Browne

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated August 19, 2004

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/04Aug/RS21890.pdf>

The Convention, which resulted from the third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea, established a legal regime governing activities on, over, and under the world's oceans. In December 1982, when the Convention was opened for signature, the United States and some other industrialized countries did not sign the Convention, maintaining that important changes were needed to the parts that dealt with deep seabed resources beyond national jurisdiction. As a consequence of consultations on these issues, an agreement relating to Part XI of the Convention was adopted on July 28, 1994 and opened for signature. The Convention entered into force on November 16, 1994, and the Agreement entered into force on July 28, 1996. As of August 19, 2004, 145 entities were parties to the Convention and 117 entities were parties to the Agreement.

U.N. CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE (CAT): OVERVIEW AND APPLICATION TO INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES

Michael John Garcia

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. June 16, 2004

<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RL32438.pdf>

The United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) requires signatory parties to take measures to end torture within their territorial jurisdiction and to criminalize all acts of torture. CAT generally defines torture as the infliction of severe physical and/or mental suffering committed under the color of law. CAT allows for no circumstances or emergencies where torture could be permitted. The United States ratified CAT, subject to certain declarations, reservations, and understandings, including that the Convention was not self-executing and therefore required domestic implementing legislation to be enforced by U.S. courts. In order to ensure U.S. compliance with CAT obligations to criminalize all acts of torture, the United States enacted sections 2340 and 2340A of the United States Criminal Code, which prohibit torture occurring "outside the United States" (torture occurring inside the United States was already prohibited under several federal and state statutes of general application prohibiting acts such as assault, battery, and murder).

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2005

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2005/Resources/complete_report.pdf

This annual report released by the World Bank draws on surveys of over 30,000 firms in 53 developing countries, along with various country case studies sponsored by the World Bank. Released in September 2004, the 288-page report highlights opportunities to improve its investment climates by expanding the opportunities and incentives for firms of all types. Throughout its rather broad scope, the report suggests that governments remove barriers to competition, along with placing a premium on delivering the basic foundations for increased investment, such as creating a stable infrastructure and securing property rights. The report also details what the international community can do to assist in this long-term process and also provides some helpful indicators of world development, along with technical and methodological notes. It is worth noting that the report is available in a number of different languages.

WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK 2004 – SUMMARY

International Energy Agency (IEA). October 26, 2004

<http://library.iea.org/dbtw-wpd/textbase/npsum/WEO2004SUM.pdf>

According to this most recent IEA annual survey, world primary energy demand is set to rise by 59% from now till 2030. Approximately 85% of that increase will be in the form of carbon-emitting fossil fuels: coal, oil and natural gas. Two-thirds of the new demand will come from the developing world, especially China and India. Demand for oil will continue to expand, at 1.6% a year, from 82 million barrels per day (mb/d) today to 121 mb/d in 2030, and inter-regional trade in oil will double to 65 million barrels a day. Most of that additional trade will have to pass through vital chokepoints, sharply increasing the possibilities of a supply disruption. More and more oil will come from fewer and fewer countries, primarily the Middle East members of OPEC. The dependence of all importing countries on those suppliers will grow.

YOUR DISEASE RISK

<http://www.yourdiseaserisk.harvard.edu/>

The Harvard School of Public Health is renowned for its fine outreach programs, and in recent years has also initiated a strong online presence. That presence includes this well-designed site (created by the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention) which allows users to determine their potential risks for various diseases, including

diabetes, cancer, osteoporosis, and strokes. By answering a few questions, visitors can learn about their various risk levels for these diseases, and also peruse a list of nine ways to stay healthy. Another section of the site answers such commonly-asked questions as "What is prevention?" and "What is a screening test?". The "Community Action" section of the site offers helpful tips on achieving some personal wellness and preventive goals through fact sheets on reducing tobacco use, promoting physical activity, and limiting alcohol consumption

LAW ENFORCEMENT / ILLEGAL DRUGS

CRIME AND THE NATION'S HOUSEHOLDS, 2003

United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP). Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). October 27, 2004

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cnh03.pdf>

This most recent annual survey presents national prevalence estimates for the percentage of households with one or more persons who were victimized by crime as measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey. Analyses provide household prevalence estimates for violent and property crimes and information on those households experiencing vandalism and intimate partner violence. Findings are presented by race and Hispanic origin, by region, by urban, suburban or rural location and by household size. Overall trends since 1994 are included, as well as specific comparisons with the previous year's data.

CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES - 2003

United States Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). October 25, 2004

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm>

This is the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) most recent annual report of nationwide crime statistics. Among the major categories of statistics compiled are those for Violent Crime (murder and non-negligent manslaughter; forcible rape; robbery; aggravated assault) and Property Crime: (burglary; larceny-theft; motor vehicle theft; arson). A separate section is devoted to "Hate Crime", defined in the publication this way: "A hate crime, also known as a bias crime, is a criminal offense committed against a person, property, or society that is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin." Each section has valuable narrative material as well as statistical data. Section V of the report contains reports on two aspects of crime, "Violence Among Family Members and Intimate Partners" and "Homicide as a Community Problem in the United States".